

# News

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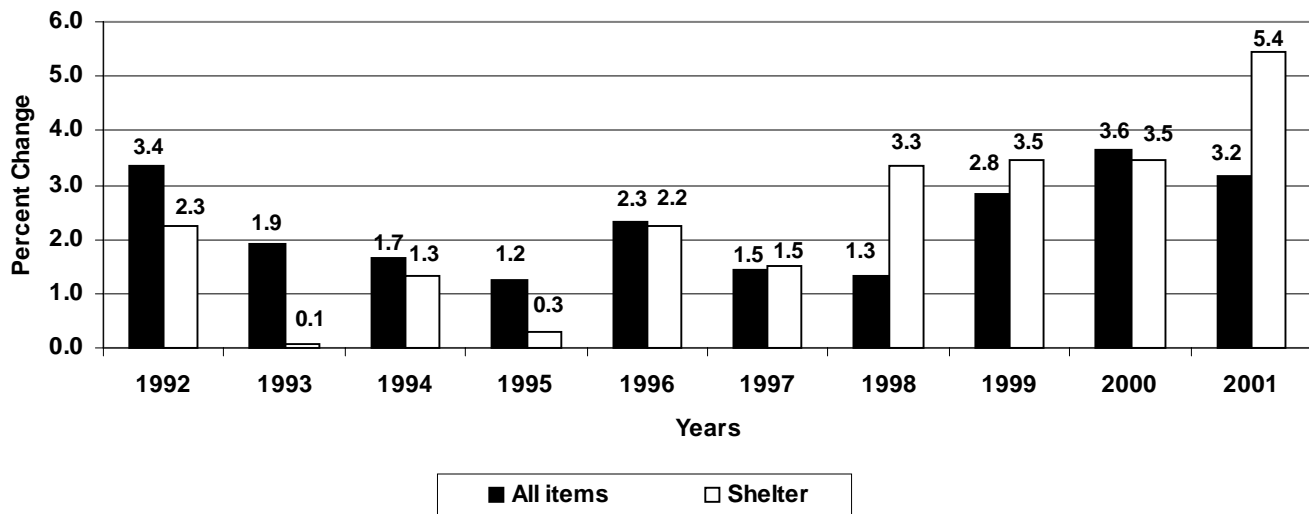
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## LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES RISE 0.2 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today that consumer prices in the greater Los Angeles area rose 0.2 percent in September, after inching up 0.1 percent in August. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said advances in six of the major categories this month more than offset downturns in the indexes for housing and food and beverages. Year to date, the all items index increased 3.1 percent, compared to 3.6 percent for the first three-quarters of 2000. Compared to a year ago, overall prices advanced 3.2 percent, while the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.9 percent. Local area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

### The Greater Los Angeles Area Annual Percent Change September 1992 to September 2001



Apparel prices jumped 3.5 percent in September, registering the largest over-the-month increase of the published categories. Despite the recent advance, apparel prices are down 6.3 percent since September 2000.

The index for other goods and services rose 0.9 percent in September, slightly offsetting the 1.9 percent decline in August. Higher cigarette prices contributed to the index's rise this month. Compared to a year ago, the index advanced 2.9 percent.

The recreation index climbed 0.7 percent this month, after increasing 0.2 and 0.5 percent in July and August, respectively. Prices for recreation measured 1.5 percent more than last year's level.

Gasoline prices advanced 2.0 percent in September, following three months of sharply declining prices. Nevertheless, consumers paid 6.4 percent less for gasoline than they did a year ago. The overall transportation index, which is strongly influenced by gasoline prices, rose 0.2 percent this month, but measured a decline of 1.1 percent over the year.

The medical care index rose 0.5 percent over the past month, following a 2.1 percent jump in August. Since September 2000, the index advanced 6.6 percent.

The index for education and communication increased 0.1 percent this month, the same as the prior month. Further, the index is 1.4 percent higher than last year's level.

The overall food and beverages index declined 0.2 percent in September, the first decrease since May. Over the month, grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, were down 0.5 percent. For the same period, prices paid for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent and alcoholic beverages measured a gain of 0.8 percent. Compared to a year ago, the indexes for food at home, food away from home, and alcoholic beverages have advanced 5.0, 4.0, and 1.8 percent, respectively. Overall prices for food and beverages are up 4.5 percent for the year ending September.

The housing index edged down 0.1 percent this month but was 5.4 percent higher than last year's level. Over the month, the decline in the fuels and utilities index (1.7 percent) more than offset the advance in the shelter index (0.2 percent). Within fuels and utilities, the September indexes for electricity decreased 0.3 percent and utility natural gas service fell 8.5 percent, following sharp increases in August. Compared to last year's level, the electricity index measured 46.7 percent higher, while utility natural gas moved down 33.4 percent. The shelter category advanced 0.2 percent over the month and 5.4 percent for the year ending September. Within shelter this month, rent of primary residence and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 0.8 and 0.5 percent, respectively, matching August's numbers. These two indexes have increased, correspondingly, 6.3 and 5.3 percent over the year. The index for household furnishings inched down 0.1 percent in September, but showed a 0.3 percent increase from a year ago.

In September, the Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers, (CPI-U), in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, measured 178.8 on the 1982-84=100 reference base. This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$178.80 in September 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Sep. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items .....	178.3	178.4	178.8	3.2	0.3	0.2
All items (1967=100) .....	526.8	527.0	528.1	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	181.5	182.6	182.2	4.5	0.4	-0.2
Food .....	179.8	180.8	180.3	4.6	0.3	-0.3
Food at home .....	189.7	190.7	189.7	5.0	0.0	-0.5
Food away from home .....	165.7	166.6	166.8	4.0	0.7	0.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	196.0	197.6	199.2	1.8	1.6	0.8
Housing .....	180.7	182.1	182.0	5.4	0.7	-0.1
Shelter .....	193.9	195.2	195.5	5.4	0.8	0.2
Rent of primary residence (1).....	186.6	188.0	189.5	6.3	1.6	0.8
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) .....	201.2	202.2	203.3	5.3	1.0	0.5
Fuels and utilities .....	181.5	184.6	181.4	10.8	-0.1	-1.7
Fuels .....	182.4	185.9	181.7	13.3	-0.4	-2.3
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	183.0	186.8	182.2	13.5	-0.4	-2.5
Electricity (1).....	221.7	226.4	225.7	46.7	1.8	-0.3
Utility natural gas service (1).....	134.7	137.4	125.7	-33.4	-6.7	-8.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	128.9	129.5	129.4	0.3	0.4	-0.1
Apparel .....	106.2	108.0	111.8	-6.3	5.3	3.5
Transportation .....	159.0	154.4	154.7	-1.1	-2.7	0.2
Private transportation .....	152.8	148.1	148.5	-0.7	-2.8	0.3
Motor fuel .....	140.5	122.4	124.8	-6.4	-11.2	2.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	137.4	119.6	122.0	-6.4	-11.2	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	136.2	118.2	120.8	-6.2	-11.3	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	133.4	116.0	118.6	-6.5	-11.1	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	135.6	119.1	120.2	-7.1	-11.4	0.9
Medical care .....	263.8	269.3	270.6	6.6	2.6	0.5
Recreation (5).....	104.7	105.2	105.9	1.5	1.1	0.7
Education and communication (5).....	101.9	102.0	102.1	1.4	0.2	0.1
Other goods and services .....	303.0	297.3	300.1	2.9	-1.0	0.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Sep. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Commodity and service group						
All items .....	178.3	178.4	178.8	3.2	0.3	0.2
Commodities .....	152.5	150.9	151.6	0.9	-0.6	0.5
Commodities less food and beverages .....	134.4	131.4	132.6	-1.6	-1.3	0.9
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	144.2	139.3	141.8	-2.3	-1.7	1.8
Durables .....	121.4	120.8	120.4	-0.7	-0.8	-0.3
Services .....	200.9	202.4	202.5	4.6	0.8	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care .....	173.8	173.8	174.1	3.0	0.2	0.2
All items less shelter .....	172.5	171.9	172.3	1.8	-0.1	0.2
Commodities less food .....	137.6	134.7	136.0	-1.4	-1.2	1.0
Nondurables .....	163.9	161.9	163.0	1.3	-0.5	0.7
Nondurables less food .....	148.9	144.3	146.8	-1.9	-1.4	1.7
Services less rent of shelter (2) .....	217.6	219.4	219.3	3.5	0.8	0.0
Services less medical care services .....	195.4	196.7	196.8	4.5	0.7	0.1
Energy .....	153.8	144.6	144.3	2.3	-6.2	-0.2
All items less energy .....	181.6	182.4	182.9	3.2	0.7	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	182.3	183.2	183.8	2.9	0.8	0.3

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.